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**In the Claims**

1-32 (cancelled)

33. (withdrawn) A protein selected from the group consisting of:

- a) NGE[5E];
- b) MR-NGE;
- c) MR-NGE-88E;
- d) MR-NGE-88K;
- e) MR-NGE-88P;
- f) MR-NGE-88S;
- g) MR-NGE[4E];
- h) MR-NGE[5E];
- i) MR-NGE[5K];
- j) MR-NGE[W5E];
- k) MR-NGE[W5K];
- l) NGE[5E]-166Δ;
- m) MR-NGE-166 Δ;
- n) MR-NGE-88E-166Δ;
- o) MR-NGE-88K-166Δ;
- p) MR-NGE-88P-166Δ;
- q) MR-NGE-88S-166Δ;
- r) MR-NGE[4E]-166Δ;
- s) MR-NGE[5E]-166Δ;
- t) MR-NGE[5K]-166Δ;
- u) MR-NGE[W5E]-166Δ; and
- v) MR-NGE[W5K]-166Δ.

34. (withdrawn) The protein of Claim 33, wherein the protein is MR-NGE-166Δ.

35. (withdrawn) The protein of Claim 33, wherein the protein is MR-NGE[W5K]-166Δ.

36. (withdrawn) The protein of Claim 33, wherein the protein is MR-NGE[W5E]-166Δ.

37-43. (cancelled)

44. (withdrawn) A protein which is the product of the expression in a host cell of an exogenous DNA sequence comprising a DNA sequence encoding at least one of the proteins of Claim 33.

45. (cancelled).

46. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising a polynucleotide encoding a protein of Claim 33.

47. (withdrawn) A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 46.

48. (withdrawn) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 47.

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49. (withdrawn) A host cell expressing a protein of Claim 33.

50. (withdrawn) The host cell of Claim 49 wherein said host cell is *E. coli*.

51. (withdrawn) A transgenic or chimeric non-human animal, comprising at least one host cell according to Claim 49.

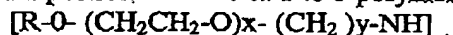
52. (withdrawn) A process for producing a protein comprising the steps of transcribing and translating the isolated nucleic acid of Claim 46 under conditions that the protein is expressed in detectable amounts.

53-59. (cancelled)

60 (new) An erythropoietic compound having a protein portion and a polymer portion, wherein the protein portion is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) NGE[5E];
- b) MR-NGE;
- c) MR-NGE-88E;
- d) MR-NGE-88K;
- e) MR-NGE-88P;
- f) MR-NGE-88S;
- g) MR-NGE[4E];
- h) MR-NGE[5E];
- i) MR-NGE[5K];
- j) MR-NGE[W5E];
- k) MR-NGE[W5K];
- l) NGE[5E]-166Δ;
- m) MR-NGE-166 Δ;
- n) MR-NGE-88E-166Δ;
- o) MR-NGE-88K-166Δ;
- p) MR-NGE-88P-166Δ;
- q) MR-NGE-88S-166Δ;
- r) MR-NGE[4E]-166Δ;
- s) MR-NGE[5E]-166Δ;
- t) MR-NGE[5K]-166Δ;
- u) MR-NGE[W5E]-166Δ; and
- v) MR-NGE[W5K]-166Δ,

and wherein the polymer portion consists of 1 to 5 polymer chains of the formula:



wherein R is H or C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, X is a number from about 70 to about 1200, and Y is a number from 1 to 4; and the polymer chain is covalently bonded to the protein portion by a secondary amine bond.

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61. (new) The erythropoietic compound of Claim 60 wherein X is a number from about 340 to about 1200.
62. (new) The erythropoietic compound of Claim 61 wherein X is a number from about 450 to about 1200.
63. (new) The erythropoietic compound of Claim 62 wherein X is a number from about 450 to about 700.
64. (new) The erythropoietic compound of Claim 60 the polymer portion is bound to the protein portion at the N-terminus of the protein.
65. (new) A method for increasing the hematocrit levels in a mammal comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of an erythropoietic compound of Claim 60.
66. (new) A pharmaceutical formulation adapted for the treatment of patients with insufficient hematocrit levels comprising an erythropoietic compound of Claim 60.